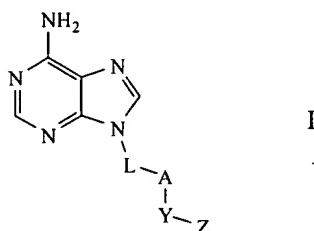


**Amendments to the claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

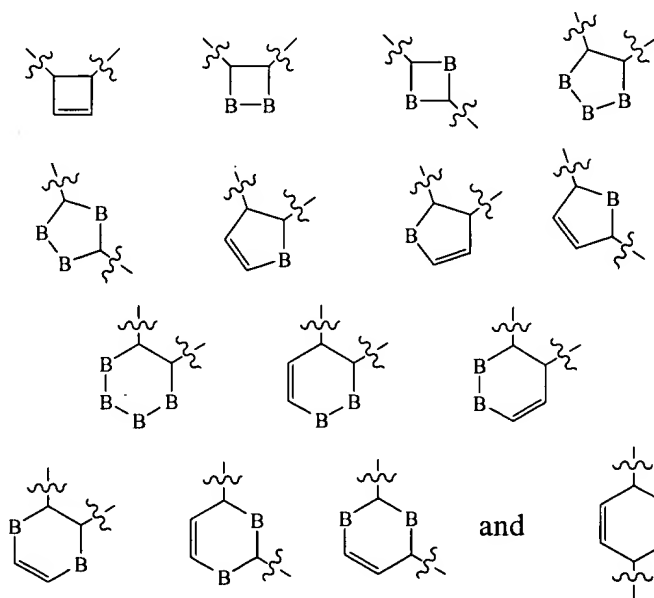
24. (Currently Amended) A compound of the formula (I):



wherein:

A is a member selected from the group consisting of:

benzene, thiophene, furan, pyrrole, indole,



wherein

each B is independently selected from the group consisting of  $-C(-R^1)(-R^2)-$ ,  $-O-$  and  $-N(-J-R^3)-$ , wherein not more than one B in any ring is either  $-O-$  or  $-N(-J-R^3)-$ ;

each m [[and n]] is independently an integer from 0 to 4;

each n is independently an integer from 1 to 4;

each q is independently an integer from 0 to 8;

Y is a member selected from the group consisting of  $-(\text{CH}_2)_q-$ ,  $-(\text{CH}_2)_m\text{O}-$  and  $-(\text{CH}_2)_m\text{N}(-\text{J}^1-)-\text{R}^4$ ;

Z is a member selected from the group consisting of  $-(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{C}(=\text{O})-\text{NHOH}$ ,  $-(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{COOH}$ ,  $-(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{COOMe}$  and  $-(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{COOEt}$ ;

L is a member selected from the group consisting of  $-(\text{CH}_2)_q-$ ,  $-(\text{CH}_2)_m\text{O}-$  and  $-(\text{CH}_2)_m\text{N}(-\text{J}^2-)-\text{R}^5$ ;

J,  $\text{J}^1$  and  $\text{J}^2$  are each independently selected from the group consisting of  $\text{C}(=\text{O})$  and a bond;

$\text{R}^1$  is a member selected from the group consisting of H,  $-\text{N}(-\text{J}^3-\text{R}^6)(-\text{J}^4-\text{R}^7)$  and  $-\text{O}-\text{J}^5-\text{R}^8$ , wherein  $\text{J}^3$ ,  $\text{J}^4$  and  $\text{J}^5$  are each independently selected from the group consisting of  $-\text{C}(=\text{O})-$  and a bond, wherein at least one of  $\text{J}^3$  and  $\text{J}^4$  is a bond;

$\text{R}^2$  is a member selected from the group consisting of H,  $-\text{N}(-\text{J}^6-\text{R}^9)(-\text{J}^7-\text{R}^{10})$  and  $-\text{O}-\text{J}^8-\text{R}^{11}$ , wherein  $\text{J}^6$ ,  $\text{J}^7$  and  $\text{J}^8$  are independently selected from the group consisting of  $-\text{C}(=\text{O})-$  and a bond, wherein at least one of  $\text{J}^6$  and  $\text{J}^7$  is a bond;

$\text{R}^3$  is a member selected from the group consisting of H,  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_8$  alkyl,  $\text{CF}_3$  and  $\text{O}-\text{R}^{12}$ ;

$\text{R}^4$  is a member selected from the group consisting of H,  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_8$  alkyl,  $\text{CF}_3$  and  $\text{O}-\text{R}^{13}$ ;

$\text{R}^5$  is a member selected from the group consisting of H,  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_8$  alkyl,  $\text{CF}_3$  and  $\text{O}-\text{R}^{14}$ ;

$\text{R}^6$  is a member selected from the group consisting of H,  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_8$  alkyl,  $\text{CF}_3$  and  $\text{O}-\text{R}^{15}$ ;

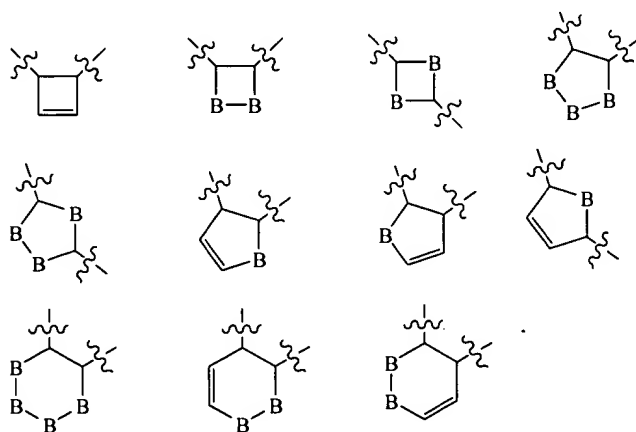
R<sup>11</sup> is a member selected from the group consisting of H, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkyl, CF<sub>3</sub> and O-R<sup>20</sup>;

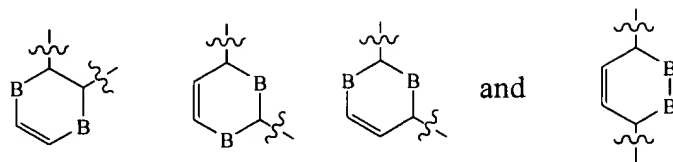
R<sup>12</sup>, R<sup>13</sup>, R<sup>14</sup>, R<sup>15</sup>, R<sup>16</sup>, R<sup>17</sup>, R<sup>18</sup>, R<sup>19</sup> and R<sup>20</sup> are each independently selected from the group consisting of C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, cycloalkyl and benzyl;

and all pharmaceutically acceptable stereoisomers, salts, and prodrugs thereof.

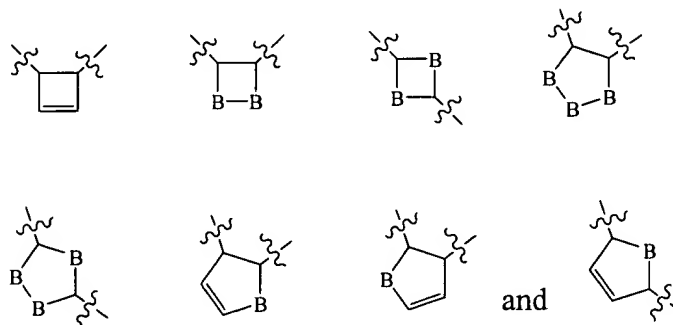
**25.** (Previously Presented) The compound according to claim 24

wherein A is a member selected from the group consisting of:



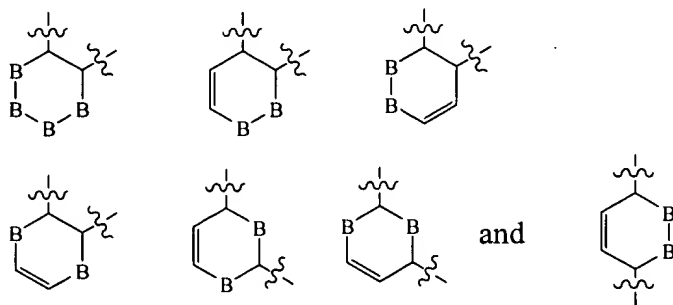


**26.** (Previously Presented) The compound according to claim **24**  
wherein A is a member selected from the group consisting of:



Y is a member selected from the group consisting of  $-(CH_2)_q-$  and  $-(CH_2)_mO-$ ;  
L is a member selected from the group consisting of  $-(CH_2)_q-$  and  $-(CH_2)_mO-$ ; and  
 $R^1$  is a member selected from the group consisting of H and  $-O-J^5-R^8$ ; and  
 $R^2$  is a member selected from the group consisting of H and  $-O-J^8-R^{11}$ ;  
and all pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

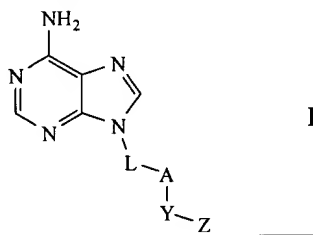
**27.** (Previously Presented) The compound according to claim **24**,  
wherein A is a member selected from the group consisting of:



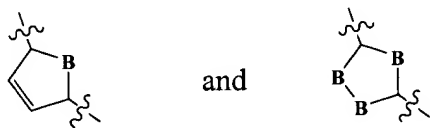
Y is a member selected from the group consisting of  $-(CH_2)_q-$  and  $-(CH_2)_mO-$ ;

L is a member selected from the group consisting of  $-(CH_2)_q-$  and  $-(CH_2)_mO-$ ; and  
 $R^1$  is a member selected from the group consisting of H and  $-O-J^5-R^8$ ; and  
 $R^2$  is a member selected from the group consisting of H and  $-O-J^8-R^{11}$ ;  
and all pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

28. (Currently amended) A compound of the formula (I):



~~The compound according to claim 24~~ wherein A is a member selected from the group consisting of:



wherein

each B is  $CH_2$ ;  
Y is a member selected from the group consisting of  $-(CH_2)_q-$  and  $-(CH_2)_mO-$ ;  
Z is  $-(CH_2)_n-C(=O)-NHOH$ ;  
L is  $-(CH_2)_q-$ ;  
each m and n is independently an integer from 0 to 4; and  
each q is independently an integer from 0 to 8;  
and all pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

29. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to claim 24, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier.

**30.** (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to claim **25**, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier.

**31.** (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to claim **26**, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier.

**32.** (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to claim **27**, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier.

**33.** (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to claim **28**, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier.

**34-41.** (Canceled)

**42.** (Previously Presented) A method of treating congestive heart failure comprising administering an effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition according to claim **29** to a patient in need thereof.

**43.** (Previously Presented) A method of treating congestive heart failure comprising administering an effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition according to claim **30** to a patient in need thereof.

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Amdt. dated August 30, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of May 6, 2004

44. (Previously Presented) A method of treating congestive heart failure comprising administering an effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition according to claim 31 to a patient in need thereof.

45. (Previously Presented) A method of treating congestive heart failure comprising administering an effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition according to claim 32 to a patient in need thereof.

46. (Previously Presented) A method of treating congestive heart failure comprising administering an effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition according to claim 33 to a patient in need thereof.